

WHY STUDENTS ACT OUT

Avoidance of Failure

Why do they do it?

- It is better in their minds to be considered a behavior problem than stupid.
- Smoke screen.

What does it look like?

- Disrupts their learning, but not necessarily the classroom.
- Class clown.
- Unfinished work, procrastination.
- Sick, frequent visits to the nurse, absent.
- Can be an A, B, C, or D student.

Strategies

- Decrease competition.
- Keep expectations reasonable.
- Don't point out all the mistakes (red pen rule).
- Model teachers and parents making mistakes.
- Reinforce all students' "stick-to-it-ness".
- Modify instruction and offer direct instruction/ mastery learning.
- Positive self-talk.
- Peer tutors for class.

Revenge

Why do they do it?

- To get you or someone back.
- Desire to have their way or to "bait".

What does it look like?

- "I hate you" statements.
- When you respond to behaviors, they intensify.
- Hurtful actions and destruction of property.
- You feel hurt, disappointed, disliked and want to withdraw or strike back.

Strategies

- Graceful exits.
- Privileges revoked, activities cancelled or delayed.
- Narrow choices.
- Deny use of objects or equipment.
- Time out consequences.
- State desired behavior and consequence-you decide.

Activity

Think of a student you have worked with who has displayed difficult behavior. Do they fit with one of the four reasons? Why, or why not?